



MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS Monday, October 15, 2007

The Board of Directors for the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District met in session beginning at 4:01 P.M., Monday, October 15, 2007 in the Rocklin City Council Chambers, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, California. Ken Grehm, Executive Director, Brian Keating, District Engineer, Andrew Darrow, Development Coordinator and Christiana Darlington, District Counsel, represented the District.

1. **ROLL CALL:**

By roll call, Directors present: Hanley, Yorde, Nakata, Roccucci, Morillas and Yuill.

Not Present: Directors Weygandt and Rockholm

2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Approved as submitted

MOTION: Morillas / Nakata

3. **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13, 2007 MINUTES:**

Approved as submitted

MOTION: Nakata / Hanley

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

5. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

- a. The 2007 stream channel maintenance program within unincorporated County areas is underway with assistance from the California Conservation Corps and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Andrew Darrow reported that District staff, California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) crews have recently completed work on the annual stream channel maintenance program within the Dry Creek watershed. Andrew explained that the primary focus of the stream channel maintenance program is to maintain channel capacity in the unincorporated portions of the Dry Creek watershed. Included in this work is the removal of debris, rubbish, woody or aquatic vegetation, weeds, emergent vegetation, sediment and other obstructions to flow. A total of 15 days of work were completed this year covering roughly 1 mile of creek channel. The specific locations selected for this years work were Miners Ravine, Secret Ravine, Linda Creek and the lower portion of Dry Creek which include the three major crossings over the Dry Creek main stem at Watt,

Walerga and Cook Riolo Roads. Several new upper watershed locations along Miners Ravine were included based on field reviews and concerns raised by the public. Andrew presented some before and after pictures of the stream maintenance performed.

Andrew reported that these expenses will be completely reimbursed by transfers from the County's CSA 28 Zone 22 fund which is comprised of annual fees assessed on County properties within the watershed.

Director Kevin Handley questioned what aerial percentage the District provides stream channel maintenance for. Andrew estimated that the District provides stream channel maintenance to approximately 10% of the unincorporated County. Andrew reported that the District tries to focus on the problematic areas. Ken Grehm stated that the District clears the majority of the constricted points within the unincorporated areas. Director Hanley asked if District staff has put any thought into trying to get a volunteer project for one or two days a year to help clean up the creeks. Andrew replied that the District has not yet considered a volunteer project but Staff will take it under advisement. Ken Grehm added that because of the power tools used and poison oak that staff should shy away from volunteers that are minors. Director Nakata discussed a problem downstream of Markham Ravine where water is not receding as quickly as before likely caused by beaver activity in the area. Ken suggested a follow up meeting with Director Nakata after staff researches this issue.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 70-01 accepting the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility construction contract as complete and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Notice of Completion.

Ken Grehm reported that District staff is asking the Board to accept the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility construction contract as complete and authorize the Executive Director to file a Notice of Completion for the project. Ken explained that the purpose for the Notice of Completion is to verify that required timeframes for payment and release of retention are met and to end our financial commitment to the contract. The Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams has also issued an inspection report indicating that all work is satisfactorily complete.

Ken thanked the Board of Directors for coming to the October 9, 2007, media event held at the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility. Ken stated that the Sacramento Bee and the Roseville Press Tribune attended as well. Ken reported that this was the first regional project that the District has undertaken, thanked the Board for their vision in approving the project and thanked both Brian Keating and Andrew Darrow for their accomplishment at the staff level.

Ken reported that the original engineer's estimate and District budget for this construction project was \$2,859,000. The construction contract was awarded for \$2,390,820. There were seven Contract Change Orders (CCO) issued during this project amounting to \$385,146 as well as changes due to increased quantities amounting to \$111,976.50. District staff has determined the final estimated construction cost for this project is \$2,797,942.50. The project was funded through the Dry Creek Watershed Trust Fund and a Department of Water Resources Flood Corridor Protection Program grant. Funding for construction of the project was included in the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 Fiscal Year District budgets.

Directors Yuill and Roccucci congratulated District staff on the project. Director Yorde reviewed the benefits of the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility project. Brian added that

the City of Roseville has recently agreed to assume the maintenance responsibility of the bikeway path. Director Hanley asked who would be responsible to respond to any further vandalism to the site. Ken Grehm reported that the City of Roseville Police Department would respond to further incidents but maintenance and repair will remain the Districts responsibility. MOTION: Hanley / Roccucci

- b. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a professional services agreement with the recommended firm for the Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan Update and modify the FY 2007/2008 District budget accordingly.

Brian Keating recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to execute the terms of a professional services agreement (PSA) with the recommended top ranked firm for an update to the 1992 dated Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan and modify the FY 2007/2008 District budget accordingly.

Brian reported that the update to the 1992 Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan has been necessary for a long time and has been one of the District's short-term primary objectives. Brian stated that County procurement guidelines were followed during the Districts request for proposal process. The Districts selection committee found that Civil Engineering Solutions, Inc. teamed with RBF Consulting was the top ranked firm following both the written proposal and oral presentation. Brian reported that the scope of services for this project includes preliminary engineering, cost benefit analysis, development of a new capital improvement project list and an update to the existing funding plan which already exists for the flood control plan.

Brian stated that funding for these services utilizing Dry Creek Trust funds in the amount of \$350,000 is in the current FY 2007/2008 District budget. The final cost for the services developed through contract negotiations with Civil Engineering Solutions is \$391,603. Brian stated that several firms didn't respond to our RFP because their initial cost estimates were much higher than our \$350,000 budget estimate. Therefore staff recommends the District budget be modified to reflect that \$400,000 has been budgeted for these services. The available balance remaining in the Dry Creek Trust Fund following completion and final payment for the large Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility is approximately 1.3 million dollars. Staff is currently researching possible grant funding sources, which could provide complete or partial funding of these costs, through state and federal programs, but has no assurance that these grant funds can be secured. The preliminary project schedule is for the consultant to begin work in late October 2007 and complete all work, including the revised funding plan portion by June of 2008.

Director Roccucci questioned whether the City of Roseville helps fund the Dry Creek Trust Fund. Brian replied that the City of Roseville collects residential and commercial developer fees (similar to other member agencies) within the Dry Creek Watershed and submits those to the Trust Fund. Director Yuill asked what would be the consequences of not updating the 1992 dated Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan. Brian replied that we would be continuing to work from an old capital improvement project list which no longer fits the goals and objectives of the District. The original recommended bridge and culvert replacement projects, established an ALERT flood warning plan and other regional projects. This update would re-evaluate the entire capital improvement project list, update hydrology/hydraulics, and take in account other projects that other member agencies have completed.

Ken Grehm stated that by updating the 1992 Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan we will obtain a high grade hydraulic model, which will show us what works and doesn't, and what is the most cost effective way of providing regional benefits to the watershed. Director Yuill asked what gives staff confidence that this new technology will work and whether any other agencies have

used it. Thomas Plummer from Civil Engineering Solutions replied that the City of Lincoln used the same hydraulic modeling technique on Auburn Ravine when mitigating impacts from the Del Webb development project. During the 2005 New Years storm event the same model predicted high water levels along Auburn Ravine which actually occurred validating the routing method employed in the model. Thomas concluded that Civil Engineering Solutions feels this is a competent model to use and it will be calibrated to high water level recorded in the past.

MOTION: Hanley / Yuill

- c. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a professional services agreement for on call aerial videography helicopter services with Sacramento Executive Helicopters.

Brian Keating explained that this action is to authorize an annual, on-call type, aerial videography services contract utilizing a helicopter for digital videography of 85 miles of creek within western Placer County. The services would be performed in a 25 year flood event or greater.

Brian further explained that Dry Creek, Auburn Ravine, Pleasant Grove and Coon Creek are the four major creeks included in the scope. The services include an estimated 4 hours of flight time and one District staff person will attend the flight to provide direction and narration on the tape. A digital recording of the videography to DVD would be provided as an end product.

Brian reported that staff considers this an effective tool in documenting high water conditions, obstructions to flow, flood debris, flood damage and bank erosion occurring during major flood events. This method is similar to high water surveys performed immediately after major events. The tapes would also be useful in confirming the accuracy of existing floodplain mapping and base flood elevations.

Brian explained that for this flood year, staff proposes to renew a three year contract with SEH for the same services. Sacramento Executive Helicopter (SEH) continues to be the only responsive firm to the District's request for proposals for these services. Therefore, this contract is considered a sole source type procurement. These videography services almost became necessary during the 2005 New Years Eve flood event but flood waters did not reach 25-year or greater levels.

Ken Grehm emphasized that no payment would be required of the District with this type of agreement unless the services were performed. Director Yuill asked without a retainer how staff will assure the contract will be honored. Christa Darlington explained that the lack of other public competition for these services and the lack of contract retainer puts the District in a better position contractually speaking. Director Roccucci questioned who determines when a 25 year event is occurring. Ken replied that District staff determines that call based on stream level gages but that it is a judgment call by staff.

Staff has budgeted \$5,800 for these services (utilized only as required) in the Final Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget. It is recommended the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an annual on-call type services agreement with SEH.

MOTION: Roccucci / Nakata

- d. Authorize staff to prepare a grant application under the State Department of Water Resources Flood Corridor Protection Program for the proposed Scilacci Farms flood and conservation easement.

Brian Keating reported that one of the objectives in the short-term workplan is to identify and work with potential partners and identify potential flood and conservation easements within the southwestern part of the County in the Cross Canal watershed. Brian stated that this project is an opportunity for the District to pursue its first regional effort at flood control within the Cross Canal watershed. Flood and conservation easements on rice lands within existing floodplains appear to be a cost effective option to providing volumetric retention of flood flows.

Brian stated that District staff have teamed with other partners in this effort including the Placer County Planning Department, the Placer County Redevelopment Agency, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. The team has developed an excellent working relationship with Kurt Scilacci, the owner of a 500-acre rice and winter wheat farm located along Coon Creek in Placer County along Waltz and Wise Road and immediately upstream of the Placer/Sutter County line. Mr. Scilacci has indicated a willingness to sell a flood and conservation easement to the District which would allow flood water storage over a 330-acre portion of his property resulting in as much as 960 acre-feet of storage in a 100-year event. Brian explained that this can be achieved with relatively minor modifications to his rice farming operations, including changes to the removal and replacement timing of wooden flashboards on existing check dams. No significant earthwork or grading operations would be required other than minor repairs to existing earthen embankments (checks). District staff would be working with the property owners to adjust the operation of the flashboards and will work with Sacramento County and SAFCA to evaluate acceptable downstream conditions on the Sacramento River. Once levels in the Sacramento River recede to an elevation of 37 ft then staff would release waters from retention. Brian also reported on a future opportunity to increase the size of the embankment checks to heights just below the DSOD jurisdiction which could possibly double the amount of retention provided.

The total estimated cost of flood and conservation easement purchases and site improvements is approximately 1.2 million dollars based on recent appraised values of similar easements in the area and includes minor improvements to existing checks. Our costs may rise in the future if staff pursues the increased embankment height option.

The cost benefit for this project is estimated at \$1,250/acre-foot which appears very viable when compared to the \$7,000 to \$9,000/acre-foot prices being paid for large scale retention projects such as the City of Lincoln's Lakeview Farms and the City of Roseville's Reason Farms projects. The flood control retention benefits achieved could be sold off to future developers within the watershed who must mitigate for volumetric increases into the lower Cross Canal or could be retained for regional flood control benefit by the District. Also, a separate grant already secured by Ducks Unlimited, the 119 acre area directly adjacent to the creek will be restored and conserved for improved habitat for the many special status species of wildlife known to exist in this area.

The District and its team partners have identified Proposition 84 and the Department of Water Resources Flood Corridor Protection Grant Program as a potential funding opportunity that should be pursued in the short term for this project. This grant program has 40 million dollars available this cycle for projects that multilaterally conserve agricultural lands, provide flood control, and provide habitat and conservation benefits. The District has previously been awarded over 1 million dollars from this same grant program for the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin Facility and the Scilacci Farms project appears to be an excellent program fit.

It is proposed that the District act as the lead agency sponsor on this grant application. The District does not have any specific funds to contribute at this time (other than in-kind technical staff support) however matching funds from the following agencies have been assured:

- Placer County Planning Department \$100,000
- Placer County Redevelopment Agency (PCRA) \$550,000
- Ducks Unlimited Inc. \$50,000

A total grant application fund request of \$550,000 is proposed from the Flood Corridor Protection Program. The grant application deadline for this cycle of funding is November 2, 2007.

Director Hanley asked if there is a local match requirement. Brian replied that there is not a local match requirement for this particular grant application. Director Hanley questioned whether this would be a permanent flood easement. Brian stated that yes; it would be a permanent flood easement similar to the flood and conservation easement issued to Placer Land Trust for the Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin project. Director Nakata asked Thomas Plummer about the status of the Lakeview Farms retention project lead by the City of Lincoln. Thomas answered that the City plans to dig the site down approximately 10 feet to obtain volumetric storage. Director Nakata asked what ultimate benefit will provide at full build out. Thomas replied that Lakeview Farms is scheduled to provide up to 3,500 acre-feet but that would require certification of levees to jurisdictional dam standards as well as expensive pump systems and channelization work. Ken Grehm added that the Scilacci property is a strategically located property and the project can create good benefits for an affordable price.

Brian recommended the Board authorize staff to prepare a grant application under the State Department of Water Resources Flood Corridor Protection Program for the proposed Scilacci Farms flood and conservation easement and become lead sponsor.

MOTION: Roccucci / Hanley

7. **NEXT MEETING:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is November 19, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Rocklin City Council Chambers.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Diller

District Secretary